

Project news

Help us make an impact

Join us in a groundbreaking project to benchmark the environmental performance of Australian melon production. We're working with growers and the Australian Melon Association (Melons Australia) to better understand the industry's potential environmental impacts and to create powerful tools to communicate sustainability efforts.



Participating growers will receive a one-page summary specifically for their farm operations. This information can help you with marketing (without the risk of greenwashing), identify production efficiencies and stay ahead of market and policy developments.

Why this matters

Melon growers like you are the heart of this project. By participating, you'll contribute to shaping the future of sustainable melon farming in Australia.

Together, we can:

- Identify environmental hotspots in production
- Improve resource efficiency and reduce inputs
- Inform future strategies for sustainability
- Share findings with the industry and beyond through webinars and a final Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) report.

What is Life Cycle Assessment (LCA)?

LCA is a science-based method that measures the environmental footprint of a product or service. The melon LCA looks at the production stage from cradle to farmgate. It will help explain, communicate, and manage environmental performance.

Our study adheres to international standards (ISO 14040 and ISO 14044) and has undergone internal quality assurance.



We're looking at these environmental impacts:



Global Warming Potential (GWP-total) measures greenhouse gas emissions from melon farming. This is also called your carbon footprint. It is measured in kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalent (kg CO₂-eq).

The hotspot analyses where making changes had the biggest impact.

Note: This study is tailored for Australian melons and is not intended for direct comparison with other countries' melons or different food products due to variations in scope and methodology.



Water Use (WDP) measures the freshwater consumed in production. This helps you to improve your water efficiency. It is measured in cubic metres of water consumed (m³ water-eq).



Eutrophication (EP-fw) measures the nutrient runoff, such as nitrogen and phosphorus from farming activities into freshwater systems. It is measured in kilograms of phosphate equivalent (kg PO-eq).

Project timeline

Last year: We worked with a pilot group of five growers to gather data and compile an initial LCA report.

This year: Final analysis by June and project completion by December.



How can you get involved

We need your insights! To ensure our data reflects the industry accurately and benefits growers and packers alike, we're looking for more melon growers to join the project.

Your expertise will help us:

- Strengthen the quality and relevance of our findings.
- Provide meaningful recommendations for industry growth.



Benefits of participation

- Understand your impact by receiving a short, tailored one-page summary, which focuses on the results for your farming operations (such as carbon footprint and water footprint).
- Shape future R&D and sustainability strategies for the melon industry.
- Be part of a collaborative effort driving positive change.



Interested?

Contact us today to learn more or to join the project.

Let's grow the future together

Your knowledge and experience are invaluable in building a more sustainable melon industry for Australia.

For more information and to register to be involved, please contact our team.

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Learn more at www.horticulture.com.au/growers/melon-fund



thinkstep-anz is an independent sustainability firm helping businesses from many industries succeed sustainably. They work with government, NGO and business clients in both Australia and New Zealand across a wide variety of sectors. Their services span sustainability strategy and technical solutions to make products and businesses more sustainable.

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